THE PLATTSBURG REFLEX

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A Happy New Year

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The Plattsburg Reflex

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE MEN OF THE MEDICAL DETACHMENT, U. S. A., GENERAL HOSPITAL NO. 30. PLATTSBURG BARRACKS, N. Y.

VOL. 1 | Wednesday, January 1, 1919 | NO. 2

A MEETING WITH MAJOR GENERAL EDWARDS

(Editor's Note:—One of our Editors recently spent an evening with a few other enlisted men, and some civilians in company with Major General Edwards who commanded the 26th Division in France.)

The General, a tall figure of a man, with large, handsome features, and a pair of most kindly eyes, wore the letters "Y D" (Yankee Devils) embroidered on his shoulder. He was the Commander of a Division that saw some of the hardest fighting of the war near Cambrai, at Chateau Thierry, and in the Argonne forest. The General shuddered as he spoke of the terribly difficult and costly nature of the Argonne fighting.

The General did not tell the writer that at Chateau Thierry, when ordered to retreat along with the retreating French, he sent the famous reply to the Headquarters of General Foch, "My men would not know how to retreat. We are advancing." But the General did tell, with a double gesture, how the advance was effected. Reaching behind to the sides and rear of his chair, he slowly drew his arms forward and said, "We dragged the French in after us on either side like that. They had to support us to keep us from annihilation, for they knew that there were no reserves behind us."

Asked to state to what degree the American Expeditionary Forces were responsible for compelling the Germans to surrender, he said briefly, "The French armies in the Spring of 1918 were retreating, worn out by four years of fighting. They cannot be criticized for the condition they were in after four long years of it. But the significant thing is that in two months after the Americans struck the Boche, all the demoralized French divisions had become attacking divisions. That is what the Americans did. They revived the French morale."

General Edwards said that the French were amazed at the initial success of our troops because they simply could not believe that the Americans were sufficiently well trained, even after General Pershing had told General Foch that he was ready to stake his life that the American boys were prepared to prove that they were there with the goods.

General Edwards won the hearts of the enlisted men who were in the room with him when he spoke of the relations existing between officers and men in his Division.

"I used to say to my officers, 'Show the men that you like them, and are fair, and then you can cuss hell out of them'."

"I used to tell my men that they knew better than I how to fight in the trenches, and if any of them had a new idea as to how to play the game more successfully, I wanted to hear it. One day, I saw a Corporal and a Private sheepishly hanging around my tent as if they couldn't make up their minds to leave or to remain. I sent an Aide out to ask them what they wanted, and he reported that they wanted to see the Boss. I had them brought in and they told me of an idea they had which we later used with great success against the Boche."

The General added that there were a number of enlisted men in his regiments who were capable of leading their outfits, and it was to their spirit and intelligence that the whole Division very largely owed its effectiveness.

A civilian who was present in the little gathering around the General suddenly realized that his son's regiment, the 101st Engineers, had formed part of the 26th Division, and that consequently his son had served under the General. The father spoke of this, and instantly the General was alive with interest to know all about the son,—his name and his present whereabouts. When he learned the occasion of the son's getting wounded, he thought a moment, and then surprised us all with his remarkable memory, for he asked the father, "Didn't your son have such and such a wound" (describing it), "and wasn't he put in such and such hospital" (naming it), "and didn't he receive the Croix de Guerre"? The father answered affirmatively to all three questions.

"Do you know, Sir, the Croix de Guerre saved your son's life," said the General.

"How was that?" asked the father.

The General explained: "When a man was very severely wounded, I used to send a high French officer if I could to decorate him with the Croix de Guerre. The officer would say to the man: 'You have been a hero, and I have been sent to pin this decoration on you.' Then as the wounded man in his suffering would apathetically watch the officer's fingers attaching the Croix to his breast, the officer would add: 'You are going to get well. Now go to sleep.' And the soldier would close his eyes contentedly and get the much-needed sleep which otherwise would often not come to him. The Croix de Guerre has thus saved many lives," concluded the General.

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Sponsor and Post Censor
1ST LIEUT. FRANKLIN D. POSTLE

Editor
SGT. 1ST CL. EDWARD BRANNER

Associate Editor
SGT. DAVID L. STRUMPF

Contributing Editor
SGT. FREDERICK J. POHL

Business Manager
PVT. JOHN J. BROTHERTON

LOOKING BACKWARD

Our second issue is a New Year's issue. As is natural at this season, our thoughts go back over the old year which came so near to seeing a world victory for Germany. Only a German blunder saved the Allies until the Americans arrived in force enough to turn the tide. Then events came tumbling upon the heels of one another; the Allied advance, the surrender of Bulgaria, of Turkey, of Austria, and finally of Germany herself. The last family of autocrats ran scurrying off "like maggots into the Dutch cheese." 1918 saw the most threatening danger civilization has ever faced; the longest and largest battle ever fought; and the complete triumph of Democracy. And it has seen preparations made for a still greater event to take place in the new year.

LOOKING FORWARD

We look forward into 1919 with a great hope, or rather with an assurance that is more than hope. A peace will be established, we believe, that will forever make impossible another world war. The League of Nations to enforce peace is no longer an impracticable dream. The majority of men everywhere are determined that it shall be so. This war will have been fought in vain unless it leads to such a league, says ex-President Taft. Hundreds of millions of people are saying that this war shall not have been fought in vain. That is the good which has come out of the War on War. 1919 will see the beginning of a new order of things, in which will be born a wider human brotherhood.

THE NEW MEDICAL MEN.

The old Medical Detachment of 368 men was a well-unified group. Practically every man was known by all the others.

But recently we have received accessions in strength numbering over 200 men, and in consequence many of us are unacquainted with each other. For our mutual good let us get together as speedily as possible.

W. W.

Two Americans both of whose initials are W. W. saw in world democracy the heritage of America's leadership.

Woodrow Wilson, America's greatest statesman, saw that it was the destiny of the United States to take part in Europe's quarrels in order that the world might be made safe for democracy.

Walt Whitman, America's greatest poet, saw as far back as 50 years ago that the United States would have to carry Europe, as a ship carries freight, into the harbor of world union. The following lines, written in 1872, presaged America as the leader in a world League of Nations.

"Sail—sail thy best, ship of Democracy.'
Of value is thy freight—
Thou holdest not the venture of thyself alone—not of thy western continent alone;
Earth entire floats on thy keel, O ship—is steadied by thy spars;
With thee Time voyages in trust the older nations sink or swim with thee;
With all their ancient struggles, martys, heroes, wars, thou bearest the other continents;
Theirs, theirs as much as thine, the destination—port triumphant;
—Steer, steer with good strong hand and wary eye,
O Helmsman—thou carryest great companions; Venerable, priestly Asia sails this day with thee,
And royal, feudal Europe sails with thee."

THE QUARANTINE.

After the first quarantine last November, few men at the Post were sorry that Plattsburg Barracks had been under quarantine for over six weeks. Hard as the forty-six days had been to live through, we were all glad that wiser heads than ours had saved us from any fatal cases of influenza. Shall we not do our best to cooperate with our officials in maintaining the present quarantine which by its nature is so much easier to bear than the other?

THE K. P.

One of the good things that our Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts brought forth, is a better understanding and a more genuine appreciation of the K. P.'s work.

Instead of confining our appreciation to words, however, we should do everything in our power to make the lot of the K. P. easier and more bearable. Be a bit more patient and a bit more considerate. Everything that is humanly possible is being done at this post for our welfare. Be alive to the spirit of helpfulness that pervades this post, and be more helpful to the hard-worked K. P. by making less demands upon him.

DISCHARGES

For the better information of men who desire discharges, we print the essential parts of the Orders on Discharges which have been issued by the War Department.

Discharges will be granted to men who can be spared (1) on account of dependent relatives or on account of sickness and (2) in cases of men who are seriously needed in industries, but only if the granting of such discharges does not seriously affect the military organization to which the men belong.

Only men who voluntarily enlisted to serve during the emergency, and who were drafted or inducted into the service during the emergency, will be discharged. No man will be discharged who at the time of physical examination prior to discharge is unfit for duty in the class in which he was rated at time of entrance into the service; (namely, Class A, Class C1, or Class C2), or in higher class in case he has been subsequently so rated.

Men suffering from venereal diseases will not be discharged until cured. Intensive treatment of all venereals will be undertaken at once with a view to their cure and discharge at the earliest possible date.

No Class C1 and C2 men, nor men under treatment or physical training will be discharged until the Board of Review certifies that the maximum improvement has been obtained or that physical disabilities have not been exaggerated or accentuated. Intensive treatment and training of all men thus held will be immediately undertaken and continued in order that their cure or maximum improvement and subsequent discharge may be accomplished in the shortest possible time, thus reducing the compensable cases to a minimum.

All men except those inducted for special and limited service only, whose service records are incomplete or for whom there are no other available records in camp showing their physical classification at the time of inducation into service will be considered as of physical Class A at the time of induction.

Men who are given lower classification due to veneral diseases, will be discharged as soon as danger of carrying infection is eliminated.

Instructions to discharge enlisted men should not be constrned so as to prevent the retention in the service of enlisted personnel necessary to carry on the functions of the essential organizations.

No men will be discharged at General Hospitals except under specific instructions from the War Dept. to that effect.

All men who are desirous of staying in the service are to hand their names in to the Detachment Office. This last order would naturally seem to indicate that the government expects that there will be men enough desirous of remaining in the service to supply future army needs. If this assumption is correct, it would follow that all men who desire discharges will be granted them as soon as their services can be spared.

MAJOR HUTCHINGS: CHIEF OF SERVICE

Major Richard H. Hutchings was born in Clinton, Georgia, in 1869. He was educated in Georgia Military College and the University of Georgia, and he graduated from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1891.

Previous to entering the service, he was for fourteen years Superintendent of the St. Lawrence State Hospital at Ogdensburg, N. Y., from which institution he is on leave of absence to serve in the army.

He was commissioned Major August 23, 1917, and entered the service August 29, 1917 as Chief of the Neuro-Psychiatric Service at Camp Jackson, S. C., where he remained until January 22, 1918. He was then stationed in the Surgeon General's Office, Division of Neurology and Psychiatry, Washington, D. C. Since July 15, 1918, he has been the Chief of the Neuro-Psychiatric Service at Plattsburg Barracks.

Major Hutchings, immediately upon arriving at Plattsburg Barracks, familiarized himself with the nature of every neuro'ogical and psychiatic case then at the hospital. He deemed it a matter of prime importance to overlook no detail, however trifling, and to disregard no grievance, however petty, in the case of every patient.

At no army hospital has each individual patient's case received more careful consideration and painstaking study than it has at the hands of the Chief of the Neuro-Psychiatric Service at U. S. A. General Hospital No. 30.

Major Hutchings is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Medico-Psycho logical Association and other scientific societies. He was married in 1893 to Miss Lillie B. Compton of Milledgeville, Georgia. His family consists of his wife and three children who reside in Ogdensburg, N. Y. Mrs. Hutchings has visited the Post on several occasions and is well known to many of the officers.

CORPS COMMENT.

Private Margolies, on Outside Police reports business is picking up. He no longer finds it necessary to buy cigarettes.

Private Mill is acting as K. P. and is delighted with his work.

"I don't know why it is" complained Private Malamtrusruccella, a K. P. "that they always put me on a crumby job.

Private Wunner, of the M. P.'s, broke a bone last Saturday. He then spent the change.

Private Lewis, M. P. arrested a Non-Com. on Sunday. A woman had her eye on a seat in a car in which the three were riding and the N. C. O. sat on it. Lewis did the rest.

Private Moriarity, barracks 33, has purchased a mouth organ because of his taste for music.

An Ingersoll wrist watch was presented to Private Rine on Christmas in order that the Detachment could say that it had something to do with keeping a Watch on the "Rine."

Private Kinman, measures six feet four inches stripped. At the Christmas dinner he asked for a double portion of strawberry short-cake because he said it had to go a long way.

Sergeant Feole is still in the laboratory with the rest of the guinea pigs, and a few chickens.

Private Able, Barracks 33, generally sleeps over-time because he keeps his watch under the pillow.

"The best way to make a little money go a long way" said Private John Smith, "is to get a trip to Texas just before pay day."

Up to the time of printing this issue it had not been decided which one of the three men in the Physio-Theraphy Department: Private Guye, Private Kenny or Private Hayes, does the most work. They are still drawing straws and Hayes is in the lead.

"The mystery of the missing Victrola is still unsolved. A reward is offered for the return of the music box, or for information leading to the whereabouts of the nervous wreck.

Sergeant Hedrick is evidently well versed on the subject of liver. He should be put in charge of the livery stable instead of property.

Private Archie Blow smoked Pall-Mall cigarettes on December 31st last, it being pay day.

Sergeant McCombs has just completed knitting his third sock. He takes his knitting bag with him to a popular sitting-room daily.

Private Corbin, the Ward Master, of Ward H-2, is very proud of the fact that a town in Massachusetts has been named after him--Marblehead. He also acknowledges that he is not afraid to die, as there isn't a hair between him and Heaven.

Private 1st class Chuck Ritska hung up his sock in Barracks 34 on Christmas Eve. Inasmuch as Santa Claus was not furnished with a gas-mask, the sock remained unfilled.

Private Abe Mendelsohn is eating with his knife since his fork leaks.

Private "Jawbone" Smith secured a five day leave to attend the funeral of his grandmother. He arrived too late, however, his grandmother having died in 1896.

Private "Moe" Lisky recently spent a day at Keeseville, his famous watering-place.

Private Portman has submitted his name to the Detachment Office as one of those who wish to remain in the army. One dollar per day is not to be looked down on, he stated to our Correspondent.

Private Leo Bumfeld has sent his linen to the laundry, this being the beginning of a New Year.

Private Meeker has been released from the Guard House as his services can no longer be dispensed with.

Lance Corporal Heltsley hung up his sock in the Non-Com's Barracks on Christmas Eve. Owing to the nature of the gifts left by the non-commissioned Santa Clauses, the Corporal wore a new pair of socks on Christmas.

Private Amsel has once more been placed behind a good cigar, thanks to the Red Cross.

Private Schneider, the well-known Prohibitionist, met with a serious misfortune by losing his luggage on the way from Keeseville to Plattsburg, the cork slipping out of the bottle.

Private Malamtrusruccella objects to the way in which Private 1st class Boyd pronounces his name.

Sergeant first class Martindale has removed his silver wound stripe, his wound having healed.

Private Harbison, who is still a patient on Ward A-2, was seen at the Red Cross Festival and the General Mess entertainment on Christmas. It is believed he will recover.

Corporal Gittelmacher, our head pharmacist, predicts a cold winter. As he seldom speaks without deliberation, his prediction is being regarded seriously and preparations to protect us from the cold are now under way.

Private Girard, who mixed concrete in civilian life, and is now making cakes for the soldiers, has applied for a discharge. The detachment is hopefully awaiting news of his discharge daily.

Private Heideman, our 17-year-old Regular, volunteered for service as a sailor at the age of 15, and sailed overseas on the first American armed liner to defy the German submarines.

Private Callahan reports that his recent blood test showed the red corpuscles plotting against the whites.

Sergeant "Jack" Lorry has been transferred from the 22nd Infantry to the Medical Department where his knowledge of stimulants and other therapeutic agents can be employed.

Private Meeker's I. O. U.'s, having flooded the money-market, are no longer being discounted.

Heard in the Clothing Issue Room: "Its a fine garment."

Lance Corporal Scully has been appointed Bandmaster. It is expected that a band will soon be formed.

Corporal Bender's wife is here on a visit. The Corporal is a busy man these days.

Sergeant 1st class Rossetti and Sergeant Seefer lef for Brooklyn, N. Y., last Sunday night where they will spend several days and $30.

Sergeant Pohl was last seen speaking at an N. C. O. meeting.

The Hostess House wishes to announce that its Cafeteria, so popular in the past, is now open. Breakfast is served from 8 to 10 a. m., Dinner from 12 to 1:30 p. m., Afternoon Tea at 3 p. m. and Supper at 5 p. m. It is needless to say that the Hostesses are ever ready to welcome soldiers and their friends. Musical talent is particularly desired at all times.

PATIENT'S NOTES

"I wish everyone would buy a Reflex", said Corporal Charles Liguore at the station just before he left for home. "I find this paper a great benefit to each of us and I am a subscriber to it. I was greatly pleased at the manner in which things were conducted at the Hospital for Christmas. We had more than we could eat and drink, and were elaborately entertained by the Hospital Corps and Nurses. My best respects to Lt Burke and all the boys".

Why does Pvt. Morgan of G-1 spend most of his time in H-2.

Sgt. Barbour and Candidate Hirsh, Ward H-2. the pair of heart-smashers and deceiving young men are at large. Beware!

For the Vet's.

(By Cpl. Jackson)

In the future bright and cheery,
When upon his face you scan
If he fought at Chateau-Thierry,—
You can tell he is a man.

Private Buckle doesn't want to live in G-1 or N-1 but pays a daily visit to I-2 his former home.

The double red stripe can be seen in I-2

Some of the boys were disappointed in not getting home for Christmas. If Capt. Krohn had his way we would be home long ago. How about that, boys?

Talk about table-lifting! Why, in Ward D-1 even the beds move at night.

Pvt. Herbert C. Thorp, discharged from the Hospital Thursday afternoon, was married on Friday to Miss Aileen Frances Montey at Peru at the Rev. Brown McDonald's home. Pvt. and Mrs. Thorp left town on their honeymoon to the bridegroom's house in Tipton Ind., where they will live.

Acting Private Robert E. Lee, of Ward I-2 spent Christmas in Keeseville with "friends."

Private M. E. Peterson is losing a lot of hair waiting for his discharge. The boys now call him baldy.

Private Grant of I-1 received a lovely present from his sweetheart. It was an invitation to her wedding. Owing to his present condition he will not attend it.

Private Therren still has his bath robe. He may keep the Palm Beach suit a while longer.

OVERSEAS CASUAL DETACHMENT

The Overseas Service Casual Detachment is a comparatively new organization, but in spite of that is doing a rushing business. During the three weeks or so since it was started it has received 220 men and sent 152 to their Home Camps to be mustered out—and they are still coming and going altho business has closed down for the Holidays. The Detachment has moved from wards N-1-2 to Barracks 37, 38, 39. The new barracks will accommodate more men than the wards where frequently there were more men than beds.

Sgt. Morris has been detailed as supply Sergeant. He leaves Monday night on a seven day furlough and the entire Detachment will miss his gentle (?) voice.

The sympathies of the detachment are with Sergeant Burt whose wife has been very ill for several days.

After a busy day last week the Company clerk wrote a long and endearing letter to his best girl, and instead of signing his own name, automatically signed itw ith the name and rank of the Company Commander. Fortunately the mistake was noticed in time.

Boys! Watch your step in the City or some widow will get you!

Julius Caesar so it is said, could dictate seven letters and at the same time write his memoirs, but even at that when it comes to doing many things at once he could still take lessons from Lieut. Hunter.

The mail orderly, Bower, is one of the busiest men in the Detachment. He is always writing on some weird-looking document the mysteries of which no one but himself is able to fathom, but out of the jumble he manages to get enough information to forward all mail promptly.

The weather of the last week can be blamed for the following:

A welcome respite from the wintry blast,
Coming with gentle tread the thot of spring,
The tender grass, and flowers blossoming;
The thots of coming years, and of the past,
Sweet memories, perhaps, or sad, Alas!
We think of leafy woods, and silent bring
Our tribute, rapt attention, while they sing—
The birds—but this is of the past.

The week of welcome respite now is gone;
A silent swirl of snowflakes fill the air;
Again a chilling wind, and thru the dawn
We gaze on snow-clad fields whose beauty rare
And jeweled stillness, dazzling the sight,
Or gleaming beauty thru the starry night.

The poet intended to 'polish' the above but he ran out of both time and sandpaper.

O. S. C. D.

PATIENT OFFICERS

Captain Lynch, was with us again but only for a short time as we understand he left the other night to return to civil life.

Captain Fisher intends to have a big time in Philadelphia on his 30 day leave and he certainly knows how to do that little thing.

Lt. Cook, well known as "Porky" is now able to dance the "tango".

Captain Clark seemed to thoroughly enjoy the Masque Ball.

Lieut. Lemmer, makes himself scarce at the Post festivities, but we all know that there are some very pretty girls in Plattsburg who must have his company in the evening.

Lieut Mertz, now on our staff, says that of all sports, going sleigh-riding is the best. Ask Dad, he knows.

Lieut. D. R. Kunkleman returned from leave and is now on duty at the post.

Every Patient is invited to contribute to these columns. Contributions addressed to the Editor will be received by the Wardmasters.

Every member of the Casual Detachment is invited to contribute to these colmns. Contributions addressed to the Editor will be received in the Casual Detachment office.

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A Christmas dinner and entertainment which could hardly have been surpassed at any military post in America was given at General Mess on Christmas day. The dinner, which embraced about everything that was ever mentioned on a Broadway menu, was heartily relished by over 1200 men, and was followed by a most enjoyable entertainment.

The Manhattan Trio opened with two songs. Father Crowley, the Post Chaplain then spoke a few words. Private C. C. Curris followed, after much coaxing, ascending the platform in a bath-robe, which he removed to display a pair of pajamas. He made a desperate attempt at dancing and "got the hook" after five minutes of stalling. Mr. Gifford, the Y. M. C. A. Social Secretary and post baritone, sang "When the boys come home" and rendered as an encore: "The Armourer Song from Robin Hood".

Master George White, the son of our Mess Officer, recited "Christmas Time". It was excellently rendered and received great applause. Then Santa Claus appeared several minutes after Private Scheidleman had disappeared from the Mess Hall and distributed gifts to various noncoms. who came to the platform and received their rewards for services rendered. Sergeants Copeland and Hedrick were A. W. O. L. Sgt. 1st Cl. Wm. S Green received a set of marbles. Sgt. Strauss received a head of cabbage; Sgt. Lydig, a potato; Sgt. Major Beckman, a baby's milk-bottle which he drank to the dregs. Sgt. 1st cl. Martindale received an onion, and Sgt. Strumpf, a little rag-dog. Sgt. Schutz sneaked out before his name was called, and Cpl. Gittelmacher showed that he no longer believes in Santa Claus by throwing his present away.

The Minstrel Show Marvelous given by the Talcrand Club then followed. Our nurses filed upon the platform dressed in red, white and blue costumes and in colonial paper hats. They opened with the chorus: "Here comes America now". Several jokes followed. Then "Silvery Star" was sung in duet by a soprano and contralto. One of the nurses then accused the soldiers in the Mess Hall of being intelligent. This was considered a huge joke and drew a big laugh. "Oh! Frenchy" came next, being sung in chorus. Then two of the nurses gave a pantomimic dance, to the tune of a Victrola record. One of the ladies then ventured a solo entitled "Go to sleep, my pickaninny Babe" followed by a recitation, "Here's to the pint". The Minstrel Show closed with the Christmas song, "Ring on, sweet bells" which was sung by the chorus and encored as a grand finale.

Pvt. Thomas Golden, the little man with the big voice, sang two popular ballads and was heartily applauded. Pvt. Miller, dressed as a gentleman from a Bowery lodging-house cracked a number of good jokes at which even the K. P.'s laughed. Pvt. Williams then showed that all the first-class dancers are not in vaudeville, by giving a masterful exhibition of some very intricate and difficult steps. Pvt. Flitcroft then obliged with a few vocal selections.

The next number, "Here we are, boys", held our men in breathless interest, while Dick Contini gave a remarkable exhibition of skill with Jack Flavin as a foil, in a series of bayonet and fistic art tactics, which received rousing applause.

Our Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Woodson, followed and delivered a brief address. He wished us all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pvts Gimont and Herman gave a very lively exhibition of fistic art by lambasting each other all over the platform, and Pvt. St. Rock exhibited a series of strong-arm tactics. Sgt. Lee sang and danced, and Sgt. Strauss recited "Mrs. McDuffie at the Baseball Game" in a masterful manner. Sgt. Pohl then said a few words about our Post weekly, the REFLEX.

The decorations consisted of streamers and bells running across the large Mess Hall and large buntings of "Old Glory" graced its four walls. A platform was erected on which a great Christmas tree was placed, adorned with a gorgeous variety of holiday tinsel. For a Medical Department Christmas celebration, the evergreens were very appropiately decorated with absorbent cotton.

Sgt. 1st cl. Jos. Green and Sgt. Anthony Salamone, our mess sergeants, and Pvt. 1st cl. Riddett, our very capable boy-announcer, worked in conjunction with 1st Lt. O. E. White, our Mess Officer, for the past several weeks to make this Christmas Dinner and entertainment the tremendous success it was.

Q. M. C. NOTES

Too much praise can not be given Mess Sergeant Jack Dempsey for the Xmas dinner at the Q. M. C. Mess and the decorating of the Mess Hall by Private 1st Cl. James Reilly.

Private "Abie" Schneider has at last learned the art of peeling spuds, with the assistance of Priva e Nunn.

Sergeant Valentine of the Motor Transport Corps who has been a patient at the post hospital for the past few weeks took dinner with the Corps on Xmas day.

Corporal Hubbard of the Motor Transport Corps got mixed up with one of the Mule Skinners of the Q. M. C. and when the smoke blew away Corporal Hubbard had one black eye.

Anyone on the Post that desires any information on love will call on our Ordnance Sergeant Will B. Mo.t.

Corporal Murphy received a telephone call the other night, and the 1s.. Sgt. having answered the wire, asked who was calling. The answer flashed back over the wire, sharp as a diamond "The only girl who is supposed to call Corporal Murphy.

Now that Pvt. 1st class Watson is back from the wild and wooley West, the telephone calls come in as usual again, "Is Clarence Swanson or Glen Watson there?"

Sgt. Hoke wishes to express his thanks to the Red Cross for furnishing him with a cane, which he finds very comfortable wearing over to the office these cold mornings.

Pvt. 1st Cl. McKenna has turned the pages back to where he started on his arrival in Plattsburg. During the lay off his heart was broken on account of seeing her with a Signal Corps man of the 321st Signal Battalion.

Top Sgt. Parsons keeps in close touch with LaVoice's music, in the hope of obtaining all the latest records before they arrive from the Victor Co.

Pvts. 1st class Archie D. Spinner and Allen T. Henderson, have disposed of their Motorcycle, better known in the Detachment as the "old gray mule", and it surely was a very convenient means of transportation to Dannemora and Keeseville respectively during the past summer.

Request that the editor provide a column for "Marriages" in the next week issue.

NURSES' COLUMN

By Miss Cornell, N. C. A.

The Talcrand Club held a Masque Ball on Dec. 26th, 1918. The Nurses appeared en masque and in the following costumes:

Miss Cameron .....Highland Lassie
Miss Connell .....Clown
Miss Lynn .....Red Riding Hood
Miss Maurer .....Clown
Miss McGrath .....Riding habit
Miss Kirkpatrick.....U. S. Soldier
Miss Meak .....U. S. Major
Miss Grom .....Japanese girl
Miss Pearce .....Full dress suit
Mis Streng .....Spanish dancer
Miss Hilyer .....U. S. Sailor
Miss Bauer .....Peasant girl
Miss Murphy .....Overseas Soldier
Miss Share—Martha Hedman from "Midnight Follies"
Miss L. Roberts .....Gypsy girl
Miss Wemple.. .....Water sprite
Miss Howe ..... Sunday school girl
Miss McQuennie .....Buck private
Miss Darling .....Quakeress
Miss Lord .....
Miss Barber .....Belgian girls.
Mis Skuce .....
Miss Harper .....Fairy Girls.
Miss Cornell .....
Miss Locke ..... Hostess
Miss Coe .....Party dress (1861)
Miss Rossire .....Turkish costume

Captain Gillette is still wondering why all the ladies at our Masque Ball wished him to have so many candy canes. The Answer will be found in next week's REFLEX. Adv.

Captain Patten wishes to apologize to the ladies with whom he did not dance He was kept quite busy nursing as he has just recently adopted a Belgian orphan. Ain't it?

Miss Chris. McGrath is still romancing at Plattsburg.

Miss Helen Lynn, our diminutive nursie is still catering to the whims, moods and fancies of the Nurses on Ward A-3.

THOSE OFFICERS

"Samover Club"—Majors Hutchings and Rosanoff, organizers. (Names of female members deleted by Censor). Send all applications to Major Hutchings. Samover Tea and Caviar on Toast served at all meetings.

Colored tickets for sale. Apply at Major Weisenbergs office. Cures for all tremors.

The finder of the horse belonging to Major McPhersons riding crop will kindly return the same to owner. The Major also claims ability to do the "hundred" in "ten flat" without doubling his pulse rate. Any takers?

We have it on good authority that Major Hill is now obtaining enough calories in his food to keep his metabolic functions at a normal level. His wife arrived Christmas day.

It is rumored about the Post that Captain Gillette made a big haul during his seven day leave. Does the Captain indulge in African Golf?

Notice to the Public! Detective Agency of Kellam and Kopp about to dissolve partnership. Lt. Kopp has accumulated a fortune and will retire from the Army.

Captain Patten took Xmas dinner off the Post. He reports "Some Egg-Nog".

Lost—One gazing crystal. Finder return to Captain Haberman. Reward.

Captain Hollingsworth it is said reviewed the first edition of the Plattsburg Reflex with a twinkle in his eye.

Captain Carlisle is now indulging in psychological reseach. We have it on good authority that he is determined to discover the etiological factor in "Lemon Extract".

Since joining hands with the Q. M. Department we do not hear or see much of Captain Lonzo R. Bice.

Beware of the detail man, Captain Milford Levy, when he is O. D.

It appears that the Secretary of War saw fit to dispense with the services of one of the carpenters of dining room furniture.

Many thanks are due to Lt. Otis E. White, for his enduring and untiring efforts to make all the messes on Christmas a success.

2nd Lt. W. Banks, does not associate with officers, and cannot with enlisted men, we wonder what he does with his spare time.

Lt. G. H. Reeve, announces that he is willing to act as Council for Defence for any man in the guard house, or for any man that is willing to assume temporary quarters there.

Capt. Stowe, is away on leave; no one knows for how long. He is the only one who can issue a Special Order and paragraph number for himself.

The Commanding Officer of the Medical Detachment and the Society Editor were invited to attend a Christmas dinner by the Chief Nurse at her quarters. It was a regular meal and a good one at that. While there we discovered a little secret, which I am sure that all of you would be glad to know, but unfortunately I cannot acquaint you with it. Get on the right side of the Chief Nurse, and perhaps you will find it, the same as we. You never can tell.

Being in a heavy snow bombardment Christmas Eve, Lt. H. K. Taylor is now busy radiographing snow balls to determine why they made him so cold.

Help Wanted—Two strong huskies to remove Lt. Postle's dress boots. Send references to Lt. H. K. Taylor, Society Editor. He volunteered the last time.

Every officer wants to be represented in every edition of the Reflex so once again I'll ask for puns, boosts, or knocks. What may seem trivial to you may be of interest to others.

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¶The Opening House Warming at the new Red Cross building on Christmas Eve was preceded by a cane rush forty eight hours earlier. On Sunday afternoon, December 22nd, one soldier was given a cane by Major Brooks, and almost immediately, like bees from a hive, one of which has found a new patch of clover, hundreds of patients and Corps Men were besieging the place, clamoring for canes. Thereafter the Post was all canes,—canes hung over wrists, canes over shoulders, canes swinging in circles at arm's length, canes in corners, canes on beds, canes everywhere. The canes were not used as clubs, however, for the Christmas spirit had arrived. After all had been provided with "buck-private swagger-sticks," we began to look forward to Christmas Eve, each of us determined not to be the last to appear for the big time promised

¶When darkness fell and Christmas Eve arrived there shone forth through the falling snow, a large Red Cross illuminated by a spotlight, set upon the tower of the Red Cross building. The brightness of that crimson sign sent a glow of warmth into every heart. We felt that home, or the best thing about home, had been brought to us. ¶A large table on the platform was loaded with fascinating packages, of which every soldier received one. Inside of each were candy and cigarettes and some other gift, such as a pair of woolen socks, or some handkerchiefs, or a book, or some money (in one case $20.00). Inside also was a card bearing the name of the giver, a "Miss" or "Mrs." from some town of Northern New York State. The giver's name made each gift a personal matter, and much more delightful than if it had been merely provided for the occasion out of a general fund. "The gift without the giver is bare," but this time it was made possible to thank the giver by letter for her gift, an opportunity which we hope no soldier let slip by. ¶The interior decorations of the Red Cross building will remain long in mind as a beautiful memory, the tall Christmas trees with their many lights and candy, socks, and the streamers of evergreen that led the eye up to the red cross near the ceiling. ¶The packages were distributed and refreshments were served by young ladies in uniform, who graced the gathering with their welcoming smiles. Most of them were members of the Plattsburg Chapter of the American R. C., which had secured the cooperation of the many donors of the gifts, and which had prepared the refreshments and helped the building for the Opening House Warming. Among the ladies was Mrs. Byron Brooks, who has so ably assisted her husband in the Red Cross work of the Post. Among them also were Miss Irene Drury and Miss Helen Hough, the charming resident hostesses, who were sent to General Hospital No. 30 from the Smith College Overseas Unit of the Red Cross, and to whom we extend heartiest greetings. Many Officers and their wives sat in the side balconies and shared in the general joy. Standing among the soldier boys, for whom he has done so much, was the Master of Ceremonies, Major Byron Brooks, A. R. C. To Major Brooks is due credit for the fact that the Red Cross building was completed and ready for occupancy in time for Christmas. He not only helped in correspondence having to do with its construction, but when labor was unavailable in Plattsburg, he made several trips to Vermont and secured over a score of carpenters. Major Brooks was the one person to whom the men universally felt most grateful, because of his work in speeding the construction of the building and in planning and supervising the Christmas Eve celebration. Our Commanding Officer Col. Woodson was present and witnessed the festivities with whole-hearted interest. ¶After eating such large quantities of cake and ice cream that we began to fear that we would not be able to cope with the great dinner being prepared for Christmas Day, we regretfully turned to leave. As we went out, we spoke to each other of the wonderfully good time we had had. And as we walked away through the snow, we turned to, look back, and we saw the brightly lighted windows, and the red cross over all on the tower still gleaming through the falling whiteness, glowing with the color of the mighty mother-heart of America.